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ATTENTION: Editor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Free Healthcare in Jeopardy if New Health Bill goes through

Toronto, May 14, 2004 —

The Ontario Government is considering cutting OHIP funding for chiropractic services in its upcoming budget.

Ontario's provincial government plans to de-list or reduce OHIP coverage for chiropractic services (and other services including optometry, physiotherapy and podiatry) in the upcoming budget plan, due May 18.

If chiropractic services are de-listed, this will mean that we will not be able to continue to provide chiropractic services 'free of charge' to clients attending our teaching clinics who cannot afford to pay, including the Sherbourne Health Centre, Anishnawbe Health Toronto and South Riverdale Community Health Centre

As well, the general public will face increasing financial barriers to accessing health care services that have proven efficacy. We are urging people to contact their local MP **[Why federal?--sg]** and MPP, and speak to them directly about this issue. In addition, please encourage others who have found benefit from the services to do so.

As usual, there was no public or professional consultation in advance of this decision. The people who need health services the most, will suffer the most.

A full listing of MPPs can be found at www.electionsontario.on.ca

We are hoping to mobilize as many individuals and partnering organizations as possible to call their MPPs (and the Premier's office) WITHIN THE NEXT 2 DAYS and speak to them directly about their dissatisfaction with this decision.